

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 TOKYO 06507

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (FUKUDA, TAKEO), PEPR, JA, US, CH
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA

1. FOLLOWING LUNCHEON HE HOSTED IN HONOR OF CHARLES SCHULTZE, PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA ASKED ME TO STAY BEHIND FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION. EPA MINISTER MIYAZAWA, PRIVATE SECRETARY OWADA, AND SHERMAN WERE ALSO PRESENT.
2. PRIME MINISTER BEGAN BY FILLING ME IN ON LONG-STALLED PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY WITH PRC. HE STATED THAT THE TREATY WAS BEING HELD IN ABEYANCE FOR THE TIME BEING UNTIL AFTER THE FISHERY NEGOTIATIONS NOW BEING CONDUCTED IN MOSCOW BY NAKAGAWA, AGRICULTURE-FORESTRY MINISTER. MOREOVER, A CONSENSUS WITHIN THE LDP HAD STILL NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED.
3. HE SAID THAT JAPAN WAS STILL AGAINST SIGNING A TREATY WITH THE PRC WHICH CONTAINED AN ANTI-HEGEMONY CLAUSE DIRECTED AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION BECAUSE THEY DID NOT BELIEVE IN SINGLING OUT ANY ONE COUNTRY--EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY. IF IN THE END THEY DID AGREE TO THE ANTI-HEGEMONY CLAUSE, THEY WOULD INSIST ON INCLUDING A DISCLAIMER TO THE EFFECT THAT IT DID NOT APPLY TO ANY

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PARTICULAR COUNTRY. HOWEVER, BECAUSE THE IMPLICATION WOULD STILL BE THERE, IT WOULD STILL CREATE DIFFICULTIES FOR THEM.

4. FUKUDA THEN BROUGHT UP THE QUESTION OF THE SENKAKU ISLANDS, BETWEEN THE RYUKYUS AND MAINLAND CHINA, AND THE GATHERING THERE OF A LARGE NUMBER OF PRC FISHING BOATS ON

WEDNESDAY AND THE STALEMATE WHICH HAS BEEN IN EFFECT SINCE. JAPANESE SELF-DEFENSE BOATS ARE PATROLLING THE AREA BUT THE CHINESE FISHING BOATS ARE REFUSING TO LEAVE. AMBASSADOR SATO WAS INSTRUCTED BY GOJ TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS IN PEKING AGAINST THIS INTRUSION OF JAPANESE TERRITORIAL WATERS. SATO WAS TO HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AT NOON TODAY. THERE HAS BEEN NO REPORT AS YET. FUKUDA SAID THAT THE SENKAKUS HAD BEEN ADMINISTRATIVELY PART OF OKINAWA PREFECTURE SINCE 1895 WHEN THEY WERE FIRST INCORPORATED. AT THE TIME NO VOICES WERE RAISED AGAINST THEIR INCORPORATION, NOR WERE ANY OTHER CLAIMS MADE UNTIL AFTER THE WAR. AS PART OF THE NANSEI SHOTO THEY WERE ADMINISTERED BY THE UNITED STATES DURING THE OCCUPATION AND AFTER THE PEACE TREATY WENT INTO EFFECT. THEY WERE FINALLY RETURNED TO JAPANESE CONTROL AT THE TIME OF OKINAWAN REVERSION IN 1972. A REPORT IN 1969 INDICATED THE POSSIBILITY OF OIL DEPOSITS IN THE VICINITY OF THE ISLANDS. IN 1971 THE PRC LAID CLAIM TO SOVEREIGNTY; HOWEVER, NO REPRESENTATIONS WERE MADE AT THE SIGNING OF THE JAPAN-PRC JOINT COMMUNIQUE IN 1972. JAPANESE VESSELS HAVE CONTINUED TO PATROL THE AREA REGULARLY. THE CHINESE FISHING FLEET INCIDENT IS THE FIRST OF THIS SORT, AND HAS COME AS A SURPRISE. FUKUDA SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE NEXT STEP WOULD BE, PENDING A RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR SATO'S REPRESENTATIONS.

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5. FUKUDA NOTED THAT DURING OKINAWA REVERSION NEGOTIATIONS THE SENKAKU SOVEREIGNTY QUESTION HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH THE UNITED STATES. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH NO STATEMENT REGARDING SOVEREIGNTY WAS MADE IN THE REVERSION AGREEMENT, THE U.S. HAD INDICATED THAT IF A PROBLEM AROSE IN THE FUTURE THE U.S. WOULD BE WILLING TO "SHOW UNDERSTANDING" OF JAPAN'S POSITION. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE HAD NOT ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO RAISE THIS MATTER WITH ME, AND WAS MAKING NO REQUEST AS YET, BUT HE FELT IT IMPORTANT TO BRING ME FULLY UP TO DATE. I SAID I APPRECIATED HIS THOUGHTFULNESS AND THAT I WOULD REPORT OUR CONVERSATION TO WASHINGTON SO THAT THE USG WOULD HAVE THE BENEFIT OF HIS POSITION.

6. PRIME MINISTER THEN TURNED TO FORTHCOMING MEETING WITH PRESIDENT IN WASHINGTON WHICH HE SAID HE WAS GREATLY LOOKING FORWARD TO. ALTHOUGH HE SAW NO SERIOUS BILATERAL ISSUES BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE U.S., HE BELIEVED THAT OUR SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP MAKES IT ESSENTIAL TO HAVE REGULAR MEETINGS AT THE TOP LEVEL. FOR HIS PART, HE HOPED PRESIDENT COULD BRIEF HIM ABOUT CURRENT U.S. POLICIES TOWARD THE USSR AND THE PRC. HE ALSO HOPED THAT MAJOR

ATTENTION COULD BE GIVEN TO THE QUESTION OF HOW TO MAKE THE JULY SUMMIT IN BONN A SUCCESS. HE SAID A GREAT DEAL OF HARD WORK WAS NEEDED TO PRODUCE A CREDIBLE AND EFFECTIVE PLAN OF ACTION NECESSARY TO STABILIZE THE WORLD ECONOMY.

7. IN FURTHER DISCUSSION ON ENERGY, I STATED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER IS WORKING WITH MIGHT AND MAIN WITH BOTH DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE

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COMMITTEE AND WAS DOING EVERYTHING IN HIS POWER TO TRY AND GET AN AGREEMENT ON THE DEREGULATION OF GAS ISSUE IN THE HOPE THAT IT COULD BE SETTLED AND GO ON TO THE LAST ISSUE ON OIL PRICING. I POINTED OUT IT WOULD TAKE STILL A LITTLE TIME IF AGREEMENTS WERE REACHED IN THE CONFERENCE BECAUSE THE BILL WOULD THEN HAVE TO BE PASSED BY BOTH HOUSES BEFORE BEING SENT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR SIGNATURE. I EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, HOW MUCH PERSONALLY THE PRESIDENT WAS INVOLVED HIMSELF IN AN EFFORT TO BRING THE ENERGY LEGISLATION TO A CONCLUSION. I TOLD THE PRIME MINISTER THAT I KNEW THE PRESIDENT WAS GRATEFUL FOR HIS COMPLIMENTARY PUBLIC COMMENTS ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM. I SAID I WAS SURE THAT A STATEMENT STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE TO THE WORLD ECONOMY OF PRODUCING AN EFFECTIVE ENERGY BILL WOULD ALSO BE WELCOMED. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WOULD BE GLAD TO MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT. MANSFIELD

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